

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. - 61. (canceled)

62. (currently amended) A ceramic or dental material or dental product comprising a ceramic, having a bimodal particle size distribution, whereby a first phase comprises a metal oxide having an average particle size of at least 250 nm, and a second phase comprises a metal oxide having an average particle size in a range of 25 nm to 250 nm; made from a bimodal metal oxide powder comprising (a) a first metal oxide powder, and (b) a second, nanoscale metal oxide powder; wherein the first metal oxide powder has a d_{50} value in a range of 0.2 μm to 12 μm , and the second nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has a d_{50} value in a range of 10 nm to 200 nm; wherein the size ratio of the d_{50} values of (a) to (b) lies at a maximum of 40 to 1; wherein the quantity ratio of (a) to (b) is in a range of 0.1:99.9 to 99.0:0.1; and wherein the metal ~~oxides are oxide is~~ member of the group consisting of ZrO_2 , HfO_2 , TiO_2 , and Al_2O_3 , undoped or optionally doped with one or more dopants selected from the group consisting of CeO_2 , CaO , MgO , Sc_2O_3 , and Y_2O_3 .

63. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 62, wherein the size ratio of the d_{50} value of (a) to (b) lies between 12.4 and 40 to 1.

64. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 62, wherein a metal oxide includes one or more dopants selected from the group consisting of CeO_2 , CaO , MgO , Sc_2O_3 , and Y_2O_3 .

65. (currently amended) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 62, wherein the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) comprises ZrO_2 and is stabilized with 0.5 mole % to 12 mole %, relative to the total amount of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), of ~~another metal oxide~~ said one or more dopants.

66. (currently amended) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 65, wherein the ~~other metal oxide dopant~~ is 1 mole % to 5 mole % of Y_2O_3 .

67. (currently amended) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 66, wherein the ~~other metal oxide dopant~~ is approximately 3 mole % of Y_2O_3 .

68. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 62, wherein the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) is made by means of a plasma synthesis method.

69. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 67, wherein the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size of 50 nm.

70. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 67, wherein the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size in a range of 15 nm to 100 nm.

71. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 70, wherein the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b) has an average particle size in a range of 40 nm to 50 nm.

72. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product according to claim 62, wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises 5% to 30% by weight of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

73. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 72, wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises 10% to 25% by weight of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

74. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 73, wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder comprises about 20% by weight of the second, nanoscale metal oxide powder (b), relative to the total weight of the bimodal metal oxide powder.

75. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 62, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

(C) undergoes cold isostatic (uniaxial) final compacting or else it is first pre-compacted and then undergoes final compacting or

(C') is subjected to a pre-sintering at a sintering temperature in a range of 300 °C to 1100 °C for a sintering duration in a range of 0.5 to 8 hours.

76. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 75, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

- (C) undergoes cold isostatic compacting or
- (C') is subjected to a pre-sintering, and
- (D) the ceramic obtained in step (C) or the pre-sinter ceramic obtained in step (C')

is subjected to sintering.

77. (previously presented) The ceramic or dental material or dental product of claim 76, produced by a method wherein the bimodal metal oxide powder

- (C) undergoes cold isostatic compacting or
- (C') is subjected to a pre-sintering;
- (E) the green compact ceramic obtained in step (C) or the pre-sinter ceramic obtained in step (C') undergoes a milling process; and
- (D') the milling ceramic obtained in step (E) is subjected to sintering.